

DATELINE:

# LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A quarterly publication for employers from the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development

June 2001



## LMI database goes online

The Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development is proud to announce the launch of the new Internet Web site, *The Source* (<http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/source>). *The Source* is an in-depth database of employment and industry information designed to assist the public with a wide range of needs from personal career planning to business location planning. It is Tennessee's official information guide for job seekers and employers. *The Source* contains a wealth of labor market information and was designed with the purpose of providing data to aid in economic analysis and decision making.

*The Source* is an instant resource for employers, planners, and industrial recruiters to study economic trends and conditions. This easy to use interactive Web site is endowed with an array of employment and unemployment data, area demographics, industry and occupational wage data, current economic indicators, and more. Data are provided not only for the state, but also for different substate areas such as metropolitan

statistical areas (MSAs), counties, workforce areas, and special wage survey districts. Along with an abundance of current information, *The Source* also contains historical and projected data that allow for detailed studies and comparisons.

*The Source* provides for in-depth independent research. Searches can be made through the JobSeeker module or the Inquiry module. Choosing the pertinent category such as Industry, Labor Force, Economic Indicators, and so on, then accesses data.

For most data, there are several geographic areas that can be displayed at the substate level. Data such as unemployment rates are updated on a regular basis to provide users the most timely and accurate information.

For more information contact the Department of Labor & Workforce Development by telephone at (615)741-3639 or by email to [mwettemann@mail.state.tn.us](mailto:mwettemann@mail.state.tn.us).

## New Rate Notices Coming in August

By the end of August, the department will have mailed new premium rate notices to all premium-paying employers.

This notice gives your premium rate effective July 1, 2001. The notice will also show your experience as of December 31, 2000, and your reserve ratio.

When you receive your employer rate notice, check the numbers closely for errors. You have 30 days to ask for a redetermination of your premium rate if, based on what was reported to the department, your premium rate notice has

an error in premiums, benefits charged, or taxable payroll, or if calculations are incorrect.

The redetermination request must be in writing and must be received within 30 days of the mailing of the employer rate notice. Requests should be sent to

**Employer Services Unit**  
**Tennessee Department of**  
**Labor & Workforce Development**  
**500 James Robertson Parkway**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Nashville, TN 37245-3550**

### Routing Box

- ☐ Personnel Director
- ☐ Manager
- ☐ Payroll Officer
- ☐ Other

## Avoid unnecessary benefit charges

An employer can be charged with benefits, even though a former employee is not eligible to receive benefits, if the employer fails to respond to the Notice of Claim Filed and Request for Separation Information (LB 0810) or if the employer fails to appear at an appeals hearing.

The Employment Security Law provides that when an employer who does not respond on time to the Notice of Claim Filed and Request for Separation Information later appeals the decision, and the decision is reversed in the employer's favor, the employer will be chargeable for any benefits erroneously paid because of the employer's lack of response.

Legislation in 1995 extended this provision to apply to employers who do not

*(Continued on back)*

## Trust Fund balance down \$65.1 million

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund was \$757.2 million on March 31, 2001, down \$65.1 million from the \$822.3 million balance on March 31, 2000. The \$757.2 million balance is the lowest the Trust Fund has been at the end of a March since 1996.

The decrease can be attributed to the 35 percent increase in initial claims over first quarter last year and a 60 percent increase in benefit payout.

## Avoid charges (cont.)

appear at an Appeals Tribunal hearing or a Board of Review hearing. An employer is charged for his proportion of the benefits paid up until the time of the decision reversal, and no benefit overpayment is established, in these cases:

☞ The separating employer does not respond on time to the agency's Notice of Claim Filed and Request for Separation Information, but later appeals the decision, and the decision is reversed in the employer's favor, or

☞ The employer does not appear at a scheduled Appeals Tribunal or Board of Review hearing and later appeals to a higher level, and the decision is reversed in the employer's favor.

If you have any questions on the benefit charge procedure, please call **John Partlow** in the **Benefit Charge Unit** at (615)741-2223.

### Another reminder:

To prevent unnecessary benefit charges, penalties, and interest, notify the Employer Services Unit of your address change. Include your account number, name, and new address in a letter and mail to the following address:

**Employer Services Unit**  
**Tennessee Department of**  
**Labor & Workforce Development**  
**500 James Robertson Parkway, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Nashville, Tennessee 37245-3555**

## New TOSHA poster available

TOSHA recently received the first shipment of new "plain language" workplace safety and health posters. The state poster is modeled after the new federal OSHA poster.

The Tennessee poster replaces three old posters – the TOSHA Law poster, the TOSHA Public Sector Law poster, and the Hazardous Chemical - Right to Know Law poster. Previously each work site was required to post one of the TOSHA law posters as well as the state Right to Know Law poster. The new poster has a fraction of the words of the poster it replaces and expresses the intended message "You have a right to a safe and healthful workplace" in

a straightforward, no-nonsense manner.

Another benefit to the new poster is a two-fold cost savings. First, one poster is replacing the previous requirement for two posters at each establishment. Second, the commissioner's signature is not included on the new poster, which means the poster no longer needs to be updated whenever there is a change at the executive level of state government. The department will soon have a Spanish language version of the poster.

Copies of the poster can be obtained at any TOSHA office or by calling (615) 741-2793. It is also available on-line at <http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/newtoshaposter.pdf> and is available in the packet of required posters at <http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/poster.htm>.

## Employer Handbooks now available

The new TDLWD Handbook for Employers is now available. If you wish to receive a handbook, please write or call us at

**Central Files Unit**  
**Tennessee Department of**  
**Labor & Workforce Development**  
**Davy Crockett Tower, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**500 James Robertson Pkwy**  
**Nashville, TN 37245-3510**  
**(615)741-2815**  
e-mail: [pcoleman@mail.state.tn.us](mailto:pcoleman@mail.state.tn.us)

## New tax office locations

Two area tax offices have moved to new locations:

**Nashville**  
2232 Metro Center Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37245-4100  
(615)741-2621  
FAX (615)741-3472

**Chattanooga**  
311 Martin Luther King Boulevard  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2065  
or  
Box 231  
Chattanooga, TN 37401-0231  
(423)634-6220  
FAX (423)634-6354

## Calendar

### Workers' Compensation Conference

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southern Association of Workers' Compensation Administrators (SAWCA) will be held July 7-11, 2001, at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville. This will also serve as Tennessee's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Workers' Compensation Educational Conference. For registration information, please call Darlene McDonald with the Division of Workers' Compensation at (615)741-7746.

### Safety & Health Congress

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee Safety & Health Congress and Exposition will be held July 22-25, 2001 at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville. The event brings together safety and health professionals to discuss today's latest workplace issues. For more information, please visit the web at [www.tnsafetycongress.org](http://www.tnsafetycongress.org) or call (615) 741-7143.

## Note re: Notice of Claim Filed cards

Due to a computer error, some employers were not notified of claims filed in 2000 and not given the opportunity to ask for a non-charge. To rectify this situation we generated these Notice of Claim Filed cards and mailed them to employers during May 2001. If you got a Notice of Claim Filed card for a claim that was filed in 2000, please complete it **if you are requesting a non-charge**.

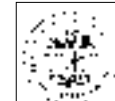
If you have any questions, contact the **Benefit Charge Unit** at (615)741-2606.

## Numbers

TN unemployment rate (Mar. 2001) 4.1%  
TN unemployment rate (Mar. 2000) 3.7%

US unemployment rate (Mar. 2001) 4.3%  
US unemployment rate (Mar. 2000) 4.0%

UI trust fund (Mar. 2001) \$757.2 million  
UI trust fund (Mar. 2000) \$822.3 million



Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development; June 2001; Pub. Auth. No. 337226; 115,000 copies. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.04 per copy.